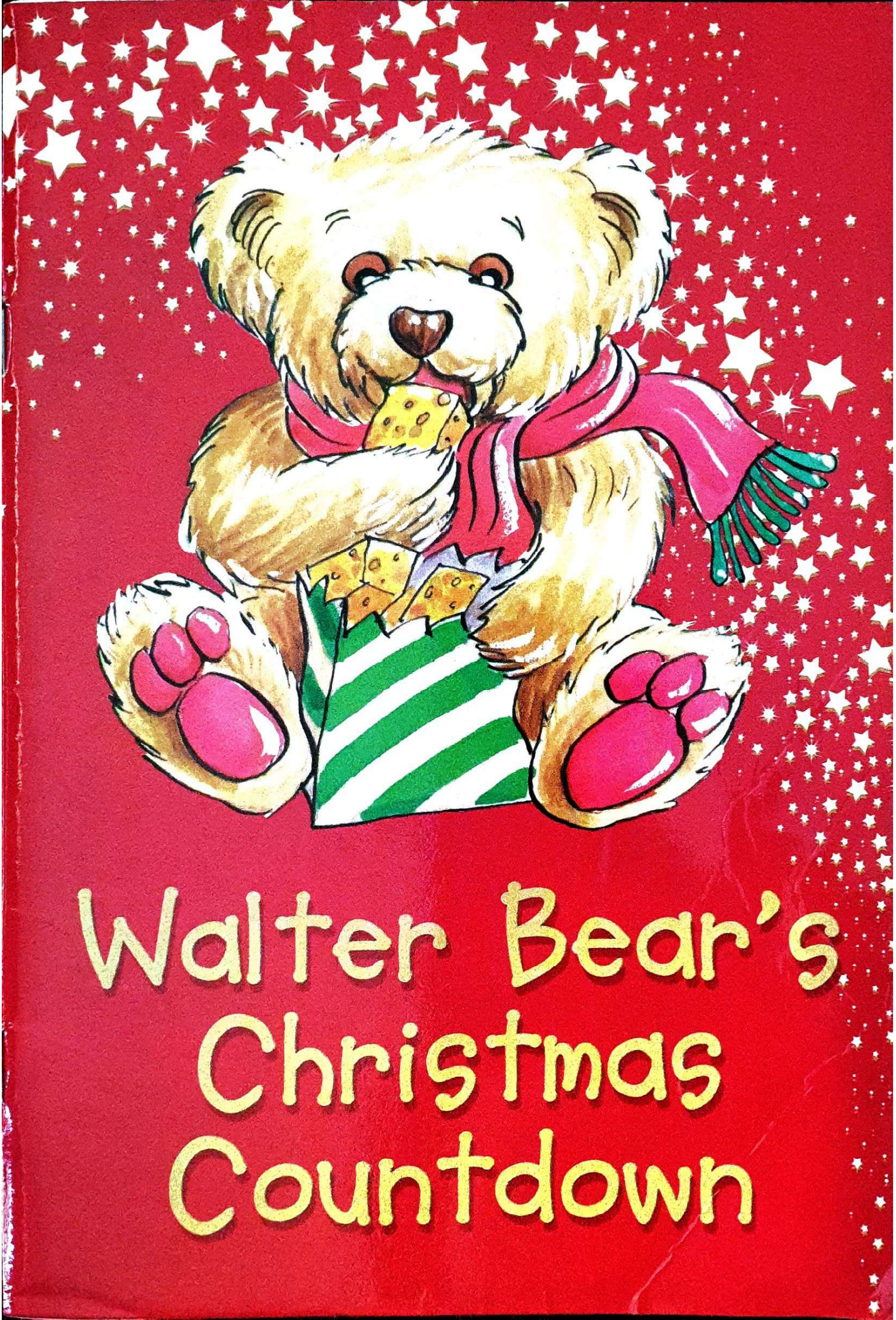


Walter Bear's Christmas Countdown

Walter Bear's Christmas Countdown

Text by Barry Carozzi
Illustrated by Trish Hill and Suzie Byrne

There are puzzles and pages to colour in. There are things to make and decorations to bake. **Let Walter show you how!**

There is even a story to read and stickers to use on Walter's letter page. All you have to do is find the correct sticker at the front of the book and place it on the picture. All the stickers are re-usable, so you can have hours of fun!

When you have wrapped your gifts to put under your Christmas tree, you can use the gift tags to stick on to the presents.

Walter and all of his friends wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Basic things you will need:

Pencils Paints or crayons Paper Cardboard Scissors Glue Glitter Felt ribbon

Text copyright © Barry Carozzi, 1999. Illustrations copyright © Penguin Books Australia Ltd, 1999. All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of both the copyright owner and the above publisher of this book. Made and printed in Australia. ISBN 0 7343 0172 3

7 sleeps until Christmas
And Walter the Bear
Was as busy as busy could be.
He was planning a party for all of his friends,
And for all of his family.

Walter had written a very long list
Of all of the things to be done:

Invite all my friends.
Write a letter to Santa.
Find a nice Christmas tree.
Cook a fresh damper.
Find berries and nuts.
And have seven more sleeps before Christmas.

"This party is going to be fun," Walter thought.
"And Christmas is going to be GREAT!"

6 sleeps until Christmas!
Walter sat down
And he thought, "Things just couldn't be better."
.He had crayons and paper,
He thought and he thought,
And he wrote his thoughts down in a letter:

Walter the Bear
Under the Knotted Old Gum Tree
Just past the Black Stump

Dear Santa

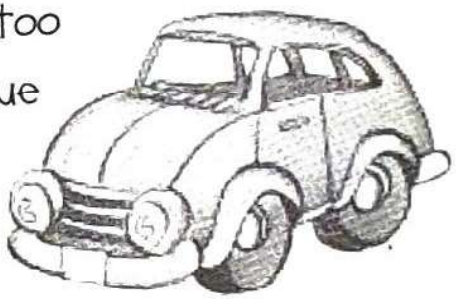
I'm planning a party this year.
My family and friends will be there.
And I'll tell you the presents I think they would like:

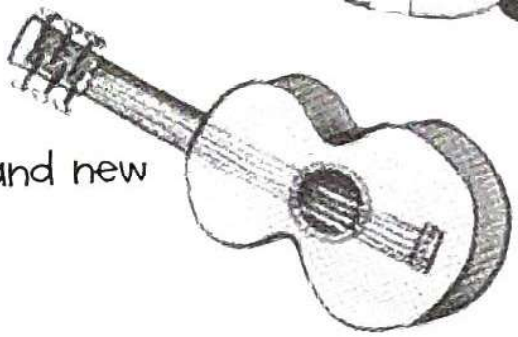
For my brother Olly, a two-wheeler

For Willy the Wombat,
some nice creamy

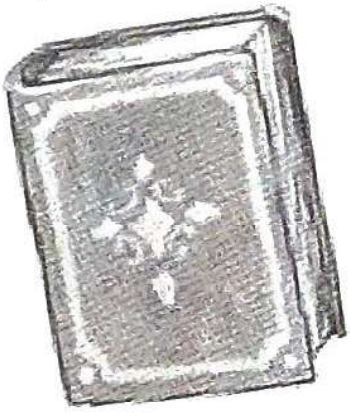
A bouncy trampoline for Kev Kangaroo

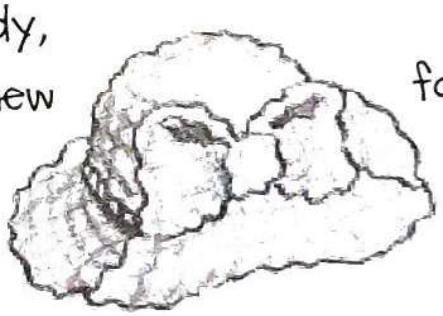
A made of seeds for the old cockatoo

For Lizzy the Lizard, a little blue 

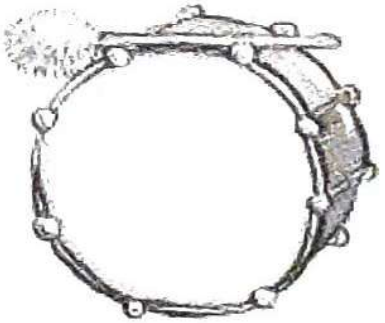


For Percy the Possum, a brand new

A nice  for Daddy,

and a new  for Mum

For my cousin, Colin, the cuddly Koala,

A great noisy booming bass 

And I can't think of anything I'd like for me
So I guess that I'll just have to wait and see
What you choose to leave for me, under the tree ...

Your loving friend,

Walter Bear

5 sleeps until Christmas
And Walter the Bear
Began decorating the tree.
He made colourful cookies
That he tied on with string.
They were lovely, and bright as could be.

Then he sat for a while and he started to smile
He said, "I know what I must do!"
He made beautiful cards using pieces of bark
And he wrote: Merry Christmas to you.

And underneath that he wrote:
You are invited
To come to my party, my friend.
It starts Christmas Eve by the knotted old gum tree.
And he finished by writing, The End.

4 sleeps until Christmas.
Poor Walter the Bear
Was a little bit worried, was he.
He went to his letterbox every hour
In the branch of an old wattle tree.

And he said to the postie as she came by
"Any letters for me today?"
And the postie said, "Sorry, young Walter, there aren't.
See you later." And she rode away.

Walter paced up and down
And at last, with a frown,
He quietly said to his mum,
"Golly – my party won't be very good
If none of my friends can come."

But his mother said, "Walter, you worry too much!
Your friends will all come – you will see."
Which made Walter feel better,
And so he sat down
And had crumpets with honey for tea.

Just 3 sleeps until Christmas,
Replies flooded in
From his friends all over the land.

From Willy the Wombat and Kev Kangaroo
And Barney the grumpy old white cockatoo,
From Percival P. Polkinghorn, Potaroo,
And the platypus twins, young Ocker and Blue.
Percy the Possum wrote he'd be there, too
And Lizzy the Lizard and Flossy the Crow.
It seems ALL the animals wanted to go.

And Walter the Bear clapped both of his hands
And he said: "Oh, this party is going to be grand!
This party is going to be GRAND!!"

Only 2 sleeps to go!
Walter got busy
There was no time for lazing about.
There was damper to bake
And pavlovas to cook.
(Walter found recipes in an old book.)
There were biscuits to make.
There were berries to find.
There were nuts to be found.
He was getting behind!

Walter mixed flour with salt and with water
And made up a big batch of dough
He made a huge damper which he put in the coals,
And baked it there, lovely and slow.

And he worked and he worked
With his cooking and baking.
He worked from the morning till night.
At last all was ready and Walter the Bear
Knew his party would turn out all right.

Just 1 sleep until Christmas!
It was Christmas Eve,
The day of the party at last!
Walter's friends had all come.
They had oodles of fun.

They ate up the damper.
They ate the pavlova.
They ate every biscuit and berry.
They ate all the lollies and all of the nuts.
No party was ever so merry!

They sang Christmas songs,
And they danced and they danced
In the light of the sun and the moon.
And everyone said,
"What a wonderful party!"
And everyone got their own balloon.

And then, one by one, as the stars filled the sky,
The animals started to tire.
And they lay on the ground
And they huddled around,
And kept warm by the flickering fire.

Hooray!

The sun rose up silently off in the east
And the kookaburras laughed loud and long.
"Wake up! It's morning! It's Christmas Day!"
And the animals woke to their song.

And there beneath the leaves
Of the knotted old gum,
Which stood up so wonderfully tall,
Were the presents that Santa had left in the night.
There was something for one and for all.

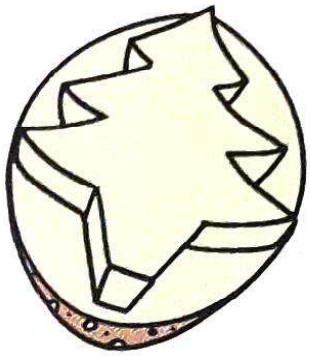
Kev Kangaroo got his trampoline,
And Olly, a shiny new bike.
And under the tree was a present for Walter,
Which Santa was sure that he'd like.

And all of them thanked their friend, Walter Bear
As slowly they headed off home.
Walter just smiled and sat under his tree
Because he was as happy as happy could be,
As he munched on his crunchy honeycomb.

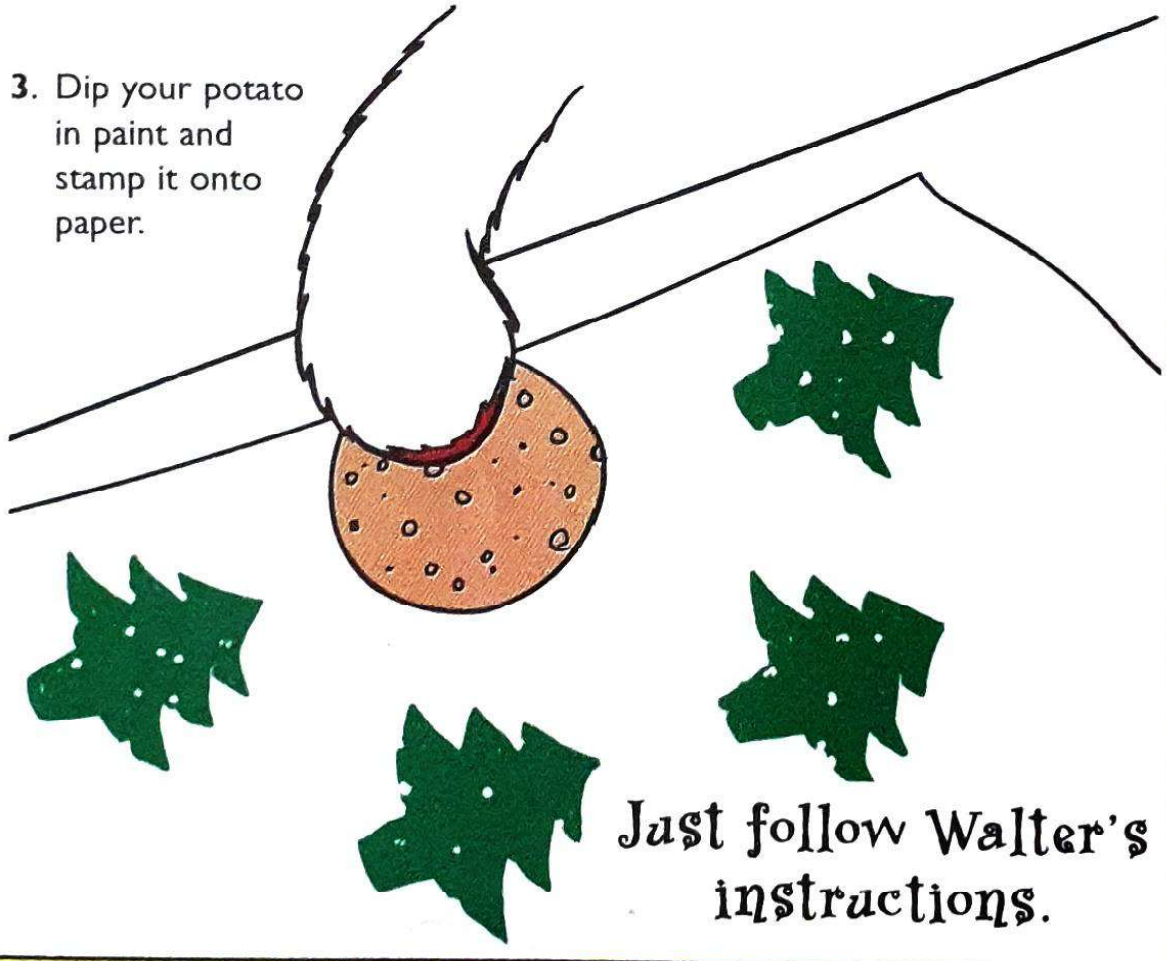
Make your own gift wrap

1. Cut a potato in half. Trace the Christmas tree template onto your potato.

2. Cut away the potato around the tree, so the tree shape is raised.

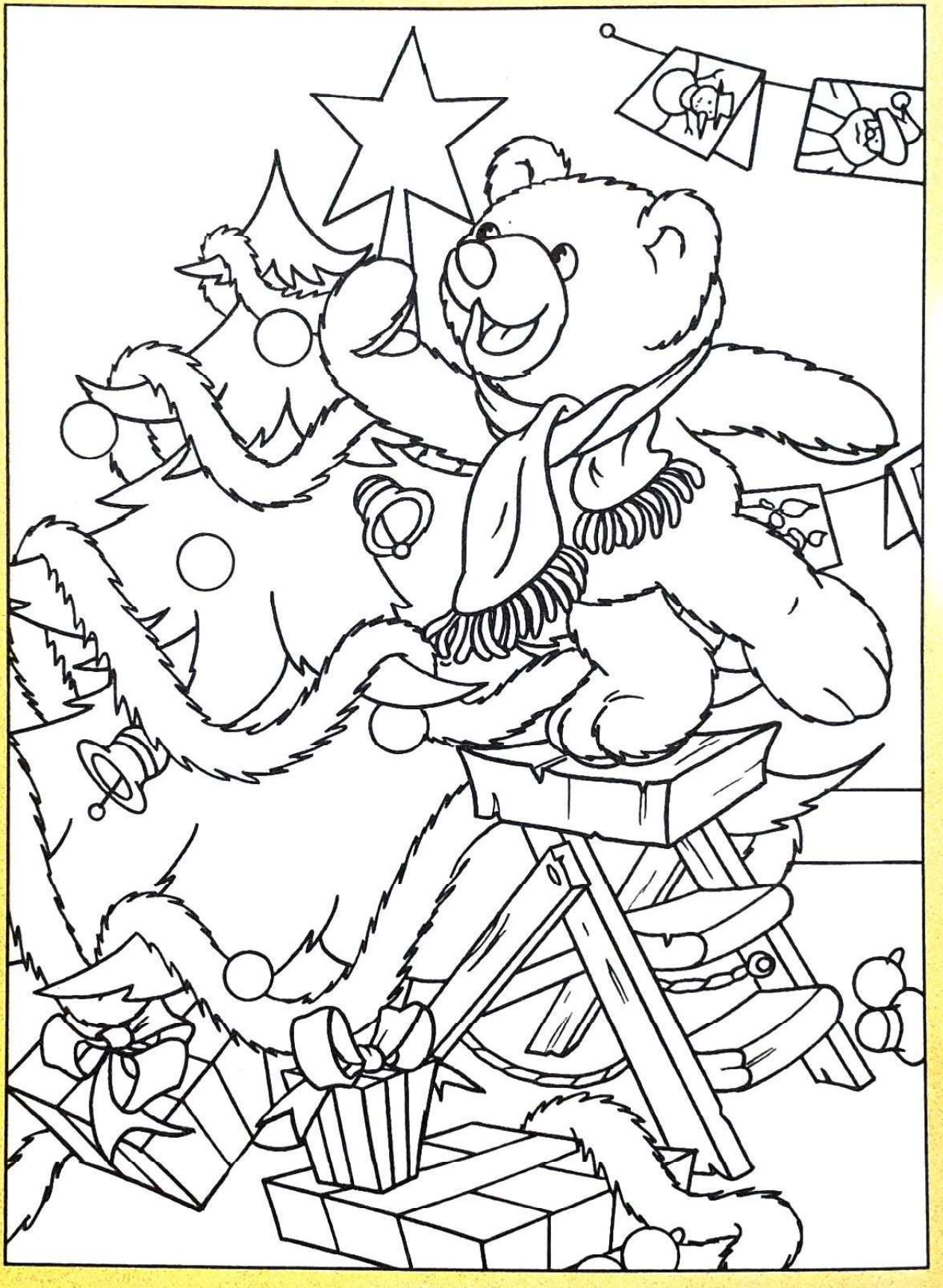


3. Dip your potato in paint and stamp it onto paper.



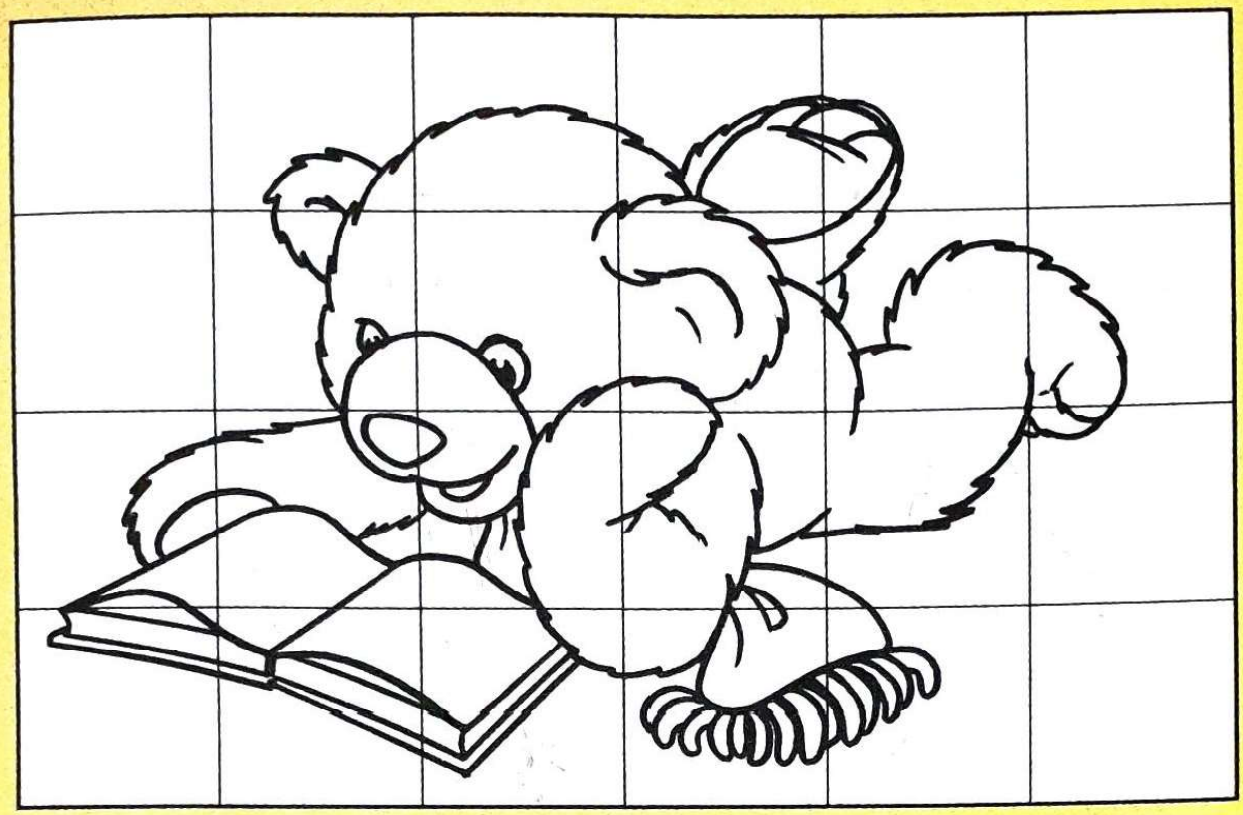
Just follow Walter's instructions.

Colour-in Walter



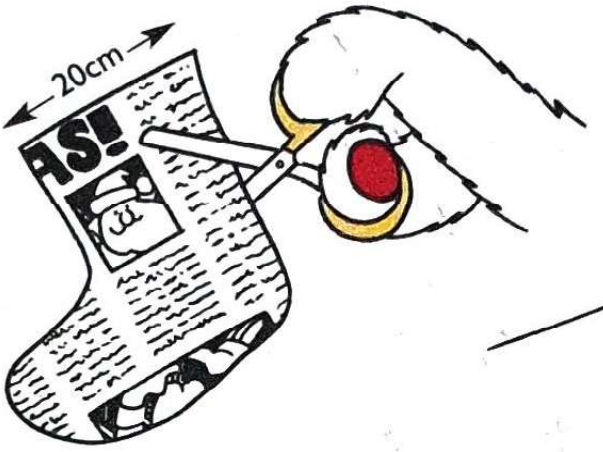
Want to be a great artist?

Copy Walter on the grid below.

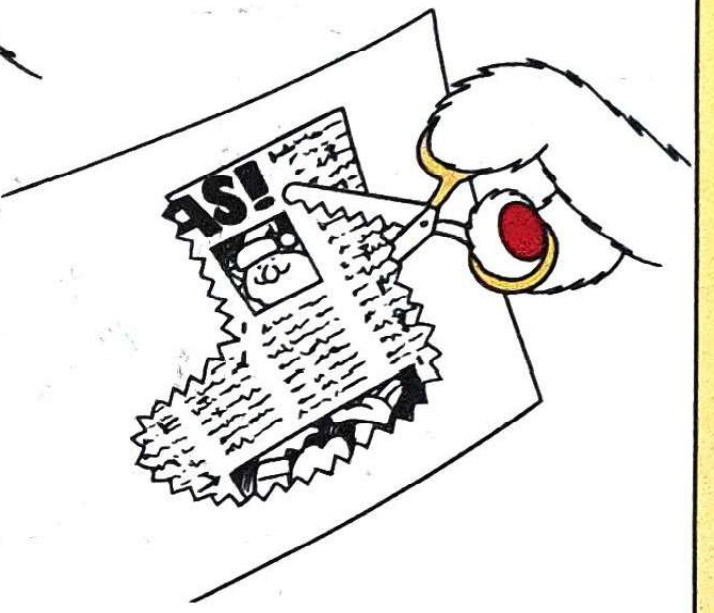


Make Walter's Christmas stocking

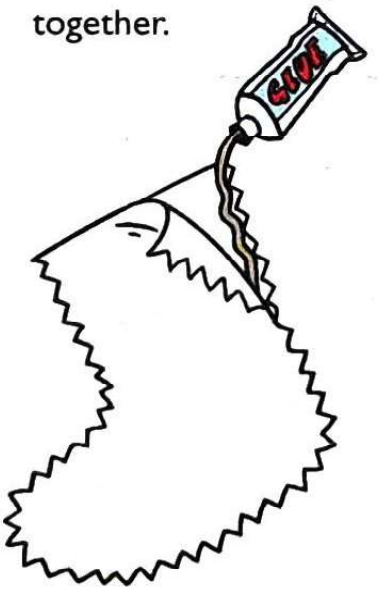
1. Cut out a stocking shape from newspaper. This is your pattern.



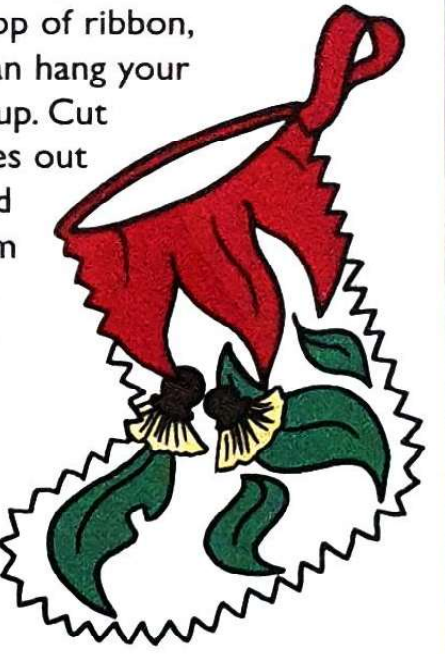
2. Pin your pattern to some felt. Use pinking shears to cut out the stocking shape. You will need to make two shapes.



3. Glue around the edge of the stocking but don't glue across the top. Stick the two halves together.



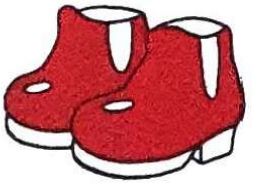
4. Add a loop of ribbon, so you can hang your stocking up. Cut gum leaves out of felt and stick them onto the stocking.

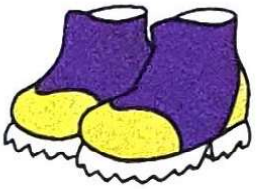


Help Walter find the pairs

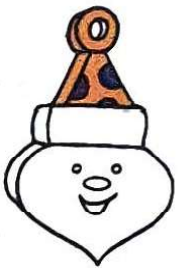
Find another one

like this:

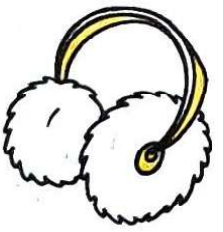




like this:



like this:



like this:

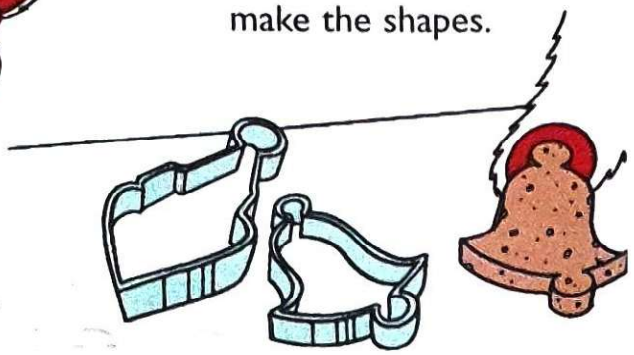
Help Walter decorate the tree

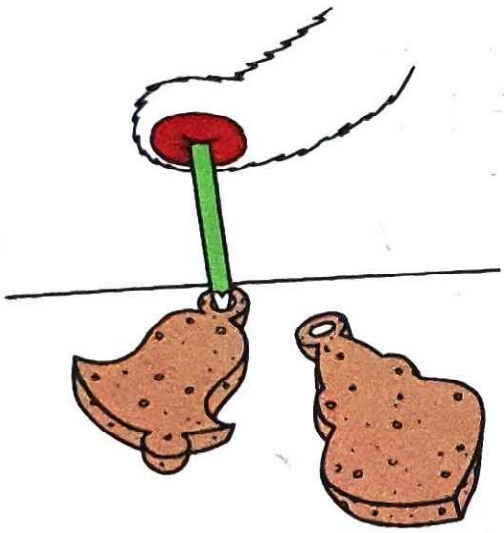
Just follow what Walter does:

You will need:
2 cups of flour
1/2 cup of salt
Mix these with cold water. Knead this mix till you have made a smooth dough.

1. Roll out the dough.

2. Use a biscuit cutter to make the shapes.





3. Use a pencil to poke a hole at the top of each shape.

4. Bake the shapes in the oven at 260°C until they are ready. They should sound hollow when you tap them.

5. Wait till they are cool, then paint them and hang them on your tree.

Can you find the hidden words in Walter's puzzle?

They run down or across. Circle the words as you find them.

WALTER	WATTLE
SLEEPS	PARTY
DAMPER	BIKE
CARD	PRESENT

W	S	J	Z	O	D	F	Y
A	L	R	O	G	B	R	P
L	E	C	O	R	I	I	A
T	E	A	K	E	K	E	R
E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T
R	S	D	T	O	A	D	Y
D	A	M	P	E	R	A	M
W	A	T	T	L	E	E	E

MYER

GRACE BROS